

A Publication of the Mount Horeb Area Historical Society

WE DID IT-because of YOU!

Driftless Historium History Campus Breaks Ground with June Community Celebration

**\$345,000 Donated in
Just 136 Days to Meet
2016 "Final Challenge"**

After over a decade of planning and fund-raising, the Mount Horeb Area Historical Society broke ground Saturday, June 4, 2016, on the Driftless Historium museum and research campus.

The 3-part facility in the heart of downtown Mount Horeb will boast a welcoming visitor center, two exhibit galleries, a multipurpose programming room with kitchenette, environmentally sound artifact and archival storage, a comfortable research and reading room, and more. The \$1.7 million complex benefitted from the generosity of a challenge grant, issued by an anonymous benefactor and met by \$345,000 in donations from 367 individuals, businesses and family foundations.

A ceremony and community celebration was held to commemorate the long-awaited event, to recognize all project donors and the many years of hard work and dedication by MHAHS Board, staff and countless volunteers.

To begin the day, a shovel ceremony was held at 9:30 a.m. at the site of the new facility, with remarks from longtime Society supporter Mark Rooney, Board President Tony Zalucha, Capital Campaign Chair Karla Ott, Board member Shirley Martin and Director Destinee Udelhoven.

A donor reception was held following the ceremony just across the street at the Grumpy Troll Brew Pub.



L to R: James Leuzinger and Tim Bogenschneider of Premier Building Solutions, Pete Riphahn, Architect Bruce Roth, Premier's Scott Zahler, Karla Ott, Brian Bigler, Shirley Martin, Doug Nesheim, John Swartz, Bill Thousand, Curator Johnna Buysse, Lee Underwood, Tony Zalucha.

Then, at 12:30 p.m. at Mt Horeb's Grundhal Park, MHAHS hosted a spectacular outdoor celebration of community and culture, featuring the Wisconsin Dells Singers, a Ho-Chunk song and dance troupe. (With financial support provided by the Mt Horeb Community Foundation.)

The Singers performed a variety of traditional drum and dance combinations in customary colorful and intricate regalia, with historical and cultural commentary provided for each specific performance by experienced leader Elliot Funmaker. (For millennia, Woodland Indians, including the Ho-Chunk, have used song to celebrate the harvest, heal the sick, prepare for war

and bury the dead.) At the close of the approximately one-hour long event, the nearly 150 guests were encouraged to join in a final intertribal dance.

The event was blessed with a beautifully clear late spring day—despite a morning rumble and shower. MHAHS thanks all who attended to honor the accomplishments of the past and celebrate an even brighter future.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW: The Driftless Historium Grand Opening is set for Saturday, June 3, 2017.



The Wisconsin Dells Singers performed at the Sat, June 3rd Celebration of Community, following a morning Groundbreaking Ceremony. This accomplished Ho-Chunk song and dance troupe have traveled the country proudly sharing centuries-old Native traditions.

Archaeology Deposit on New Museum Site Reveals Clues About Early Mount Horeb

Having an archaeologist on staff recently came in very handy for the Mount Horeb Area Historical Society. Mechanical digging of the foundation trenches for the new Driftless Historium's history campus revealed a wonderful surprise—a privy deposit.



MHAHS Curator and (fortuitously!) trained Archaeologist Johnna Buysse excavates and documents a privy site unearthed during construction of the Driftless Historium history campus on the 100 block of Mount Horeb's Second Street.

In non-archaeologist parlance, one might label this find as “an old outhouse pit.” So, you may ask, why do archaeologists care about an outdoor toilet and why in the world would it be wonderful?

Before the day of municipal trash pickup, people had to haul their trash to a roadside location outside town. It was often much more convenient and expedient to throw household garbage in the outhouse pit. In a sense, a privy deposit is a kind of time capsule that allows us the chance to look back into the lives of people who lived nearby.

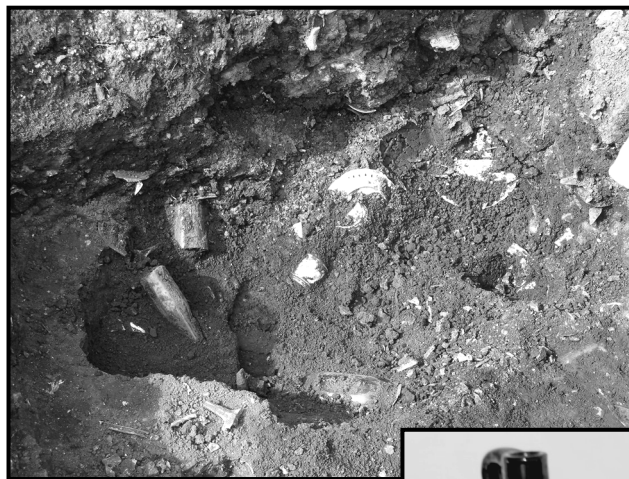
Before the privy deposit was destroyed by continued foundation work, Johnna Buysse, curator for the Historical Society and a trained archaeologist, spent a day excavating the privy with hand tools, documenting the shape and size of the de-

posit, collecting artifacts, and taking photographs. The deposit contained items common to privy pits, most of it kitchen refuse—bottles and canning jars, broken ceramic tableware, animal bones left over from meals, lantern glass, and even a couple buttons and a clay marble. Careful attention to details, such as recording which artifacts came from which levels of the deposit, will help with later interpretation.

Based on the location of the privy pit, it was probably used by the owners and guests of the Mount Horeb House hotel (formerly at the corner of 2nd and Front Streets), the hardware store (now the museum building), or both.

The artifacts recovered from the excavations will be cleaned and researched. Initial dating of the bottles and ceramic tableware suggests the deposit dates to the late 1800s and early 1900s, but further research into the artifacts will tell us more about the people who used the privy. The artifacts, photographs and notes taken during the excavation will be made a permanent part of the MHAHS collection. We hope to include a display of the privy artifacts and research results in the new Driftless Historium,

planned to open in June of 2017.

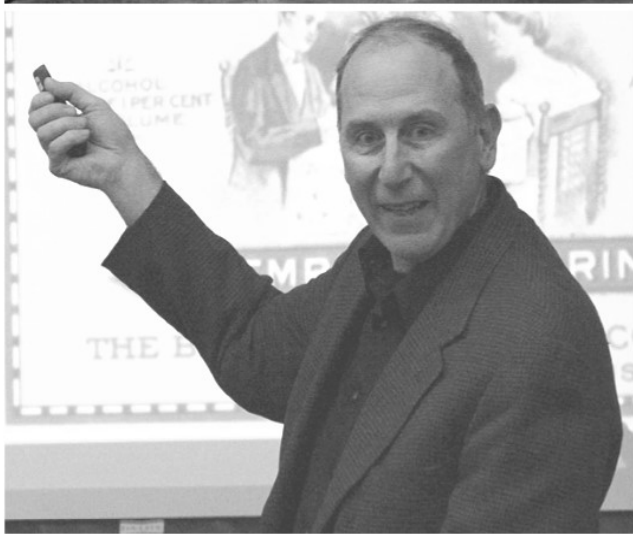


The site, seen here during documentation and excavation, produced a variety of late 19th/early 20th century jars, tableware, animal bone and other household remnants hypothesized to be from the nearby Mount Horeb House or hardware store.

Buysse's careful investigation yielded many intact and/or easily identifiable artifacts. A selection of objects recovered is pictured at right: a Western stoneware jug, fragments of tableware, an art glass vase, and a variety of bottles (ink, shoe polish, soda, medicinal, and bitters). Most of the objects pictured here date to circa 1910.



Mount Horeb Area Historical Society 2016 ANNUAL MEETING



For More Information,
Call (608) 437 - 6486 OR
Email mthorebhistory@mhtc.net
www.mthorebhistory.org

S U N D A Y
OCT 09
2:00 PM

@ Mt Horeb Community Center
107 North Grove Street

Public Welcome! Bring a Friend!

Annual Meeting, Driftless Histori-
um Capital Campaign Report and
Construction Update, Followed by
a Special Presentation:

Fill 'er Up:
The Glory Days
of Wisconsin
Gas Stations

By State Historic Preservation
Officer & Author Jim Draeger

Spring Estate Sale a Huge Success

On Saturday and Sunday, April 9 and 10, an estate sale was held at Mt Horeb's Viking Plaza Shopping Center as a fundraiser for the Driftless Historium "Final Challenge" campaign. [Thank you, Rick Field, for generously loaning us the space!]

The sale, with an 8:30 a.m. advertised start time, had eager buyers waiting as early as 6 a.m., and by the time the doors opened, 250 shoppers crammed the sidewalk waiting to scoop up antiques, household goods, gardening items and furniture. Nearly a dozen volunteers helped organize and execute the sale, with longtime Society volunteer Brian Bigler providing his considerable aesthetic and retail skills as the event's coordinator.

The majority of items were donated by Kirking family members of Lodi whose farm had been in the family for more than 125 years. MHAHS friends donated additional items, adding up to one of the Society's largest fundraising events in its 41 year history—with more than \$12,000 raised!

MHAHS has become known for this unique way of raising money: families willing to donate the contents of an estate are simultaneously offered assistance in clearing out what can often seem to be an overwhelming and daunting stash of accumulated "stuff." As MHAHS is a registered nonprofit organization, these donations are then tax deductible. Interested in learning more? Call MHAHS at 608-437-6486.

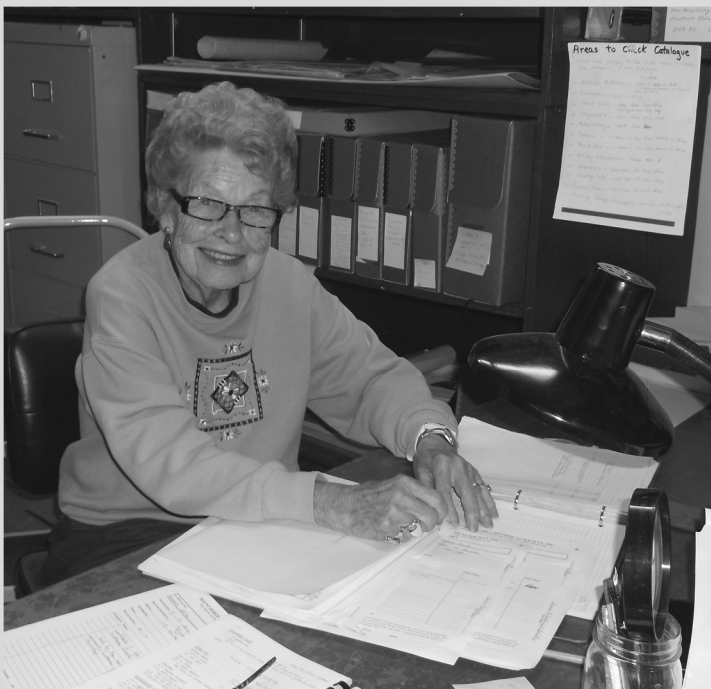


Volunteers (from L) Mary Thomas, Darlene Nowak and Larry Kruckman help man the "check out table" at April's sale.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT Meet Marlyn Grinde!

Write your own "job description" of what you do here at the Society.

Curator of Artifacts and family genealogies, member of Collections Committee, write thank you cards for memorial gifts and other monetary donations.



Marlyn Grinde sits in her usual spot in the MHAHS Archives where she dutifully catalogs artifacts every Wednesday with her sidekick (and MHAHS Board member) Lee Underwood.

How long have you volunteered for the Society?

Since the beginning— 41 years! Treasurer for 15 years; served on Board of Directors for 30 years. [Marlyn is still considered a Honorary Board Member, in recognition of her tireless service to MHAHS.]

What is your favorite part of volunteering?

Meeting and working with friendly people and seeing artifacts I grew up with; brings back many memories of my past. Also enjoy beautiful history seen in family genealogy, which is of great advantage for future generations to come.

Who or what got you interested?

Always loved history and knew so many people in the area, and collecting antiques.

Tell us about your family.

My great grandfather Andrew Arneson was in the Civil War and was the first President of the Village of Mount Horeb. My father Marvin Arneson held office and promoted Rural Electrification, a great and wonderful development that put an end to all hand work and brought electric lights. I have lived 14 years of military life, in which my husband was a pilot in U.S. Airforce. Upon his death, I came back to Mt Horeb and had a gift shop here on [Mt Horeb's] Main Street for 3 1/2 years. I had six daughters, then went back to the farm. Since then, I have become interested in and held office in six organizations.

And your education and vocational background?

Graduate of Mt Horeb High School, Class of 1942. Harper Method of Cosmetology—Madison

Why is Mount Horeb area the best place on Earth?

Surrounded with rolling farm fields, creeks, valleys and wooded hillsides. It's my home and I love it.

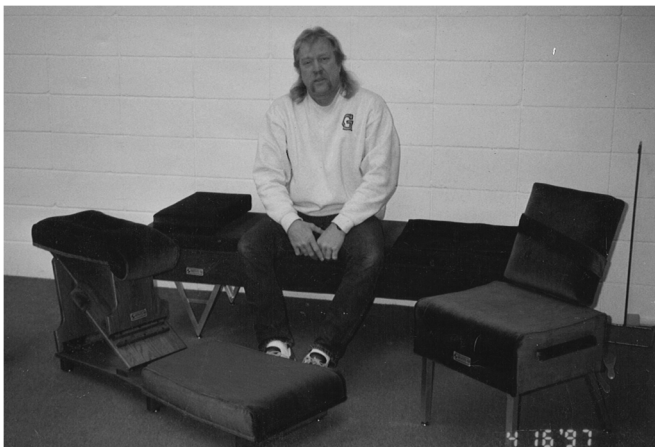
COLLECTIONS CORNER

Taking You "Back": The Gonstead Bench

By John Pare

If there is a more recognized name in Mount Horeb in the last 75 years than Dr. Clarence S. Gonstead, D.C. (1898-1978), I'm not sure what name that might be. Dr. Gonstead's fame was international in scope and the adherents of his chiropractic technique practice all over the world today. Various Gonstead organizations carry on his work training chiropractors and making the equipment that he designed available to them.

In June 2016 the Mount Horeb Area Historical Society received a Gonstead Knee-Chest Bench (pictured to the right) as a gift from Pixie Hiser, formerly of Mount Horeb. The bench came from the home of Wesley and Irene Field. Irene worked at the Gonstead Clinic for many years and kept the bench at her home so that her son, Dr. Thomas Field, a practicing chiropractor in Boca Raton, FL could give her adjustments whenever he visited Mount Horeb. Dr. Field was trained in the Gonstead technique and practiced in Boca Raton for 42 years. After his father passed away his mother moved to Florida and now resides with him there.



Roger Granger, pictured here in 1997, with examples of the Gonstead chiropractic equipment he still handcrafts for customers around the U.S. and world.

The Gonstead Knee-Chest Bench is a piece of chiropractic equipment that exists in virtually every treatment room where a chiropractor practices the Gonstead technique. Patients have been known to refer to this bench as the "belly buster." The Knee-Chest Bench is used along with two other pieces of equip-

ment, the Gonstead Pelvic Bench and the Gonstead Cervical Chair. Dr. Gonstead designed all this equipment and any of you reading this article no doubt remember them if you ever sought treatment at the Gonstead Clinic in Mount Horeb. Dr. Gonstead also made modifications to the Zenith Hy-Lo Table and it, too, can be found in the treatment room of every chiropractor who practices the Gonstead technique.

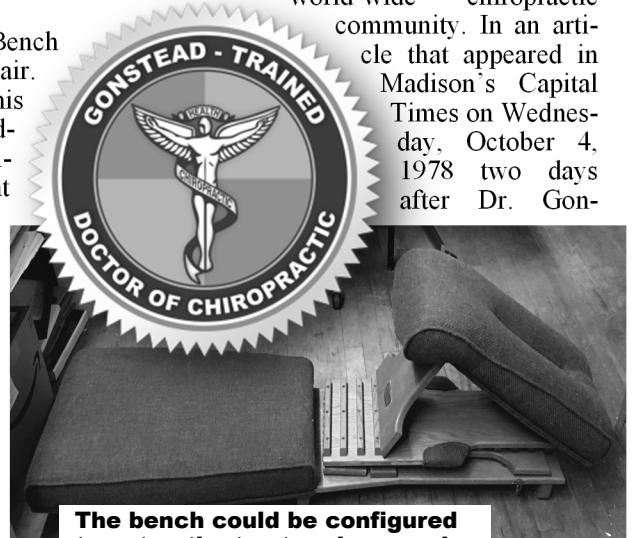
Dr. Gonstead's technique and equipment enjoyed such widespread acceptance and use that the Palmer College of Chiropractic in Davenport, IA, Dr. Gonstead's alma mater, now teaches his technique as part of their curriculum.

Starting in 1985, seven years after Dr. Gonstead's death, these three pieces of equipment were manufactured in a rural Black Earth workshop operated by Roger Granger and Mike Foseid. According to Dennis Friske of Mt Horeb, who worked there for a short time in 1998-1999, a UPS truck would make daily stops to pick up furniture to be shipped all over the world.

The Knee-Chest Bench (Serial #173/7579) now in the possession of MHAHS was likely built around 1993 according to Mr. Granger who now lives in Eagle River. (His partner, Mr. Foseid, was killed in a plane crash in Canada in the early 1990s.) Mr. Granger continues to manufacture this chiropractic equipment today and told me it continues to ship worldwide. He receives his orders from the Gonstead Seminars, Inc., located in Barrington, IL. That company is owned by Patti Cox, the daughter-in-law of Dr. Alex Cox, a long-time chiropractor associated with the Gonstead Clinic in Mount Horeb. The website lists this equipment for sale on their website as follows: Knee

-Chest Bench (\$1070), Pelvic Table (\$835) and the Cervical Chair (\$590).

Dr. Gonstead left a huge legacy in the world-wide chiropractic community. In an article that appeared in Madison's Capital Times on Wednesday, October 4, 1978 two days after Dr. Gon-



The bench could be configured to put patients at various angles suitable for their treatment.



stead's death, the Mount Horeb Mail was quoted, "No single individual means more to Mount Horeb development than Dr. Clarence S. Gonstead." His clinic, hotel, restaurant, airplane and airport, his sprawling home and his "Elvis" Cadillac, and his tireless work ethic all contributed to his larger-than-life presence in Mount Horeb. It is not my intent to tell his story here other than as it relates to the Knee-Chest Bench. Others are writing his biography and there are abundant articles about his life and contributions.

Mount Horeb Area Historical Society appreciates gifts like this one that preserve the history of our community. If you have items you would like to explore donating to MHAHS, call 608-437-6486.



THISCLOSE TO FAME

With the 2016 Olympics now history we are reminded, in a bittersweet way, that the fame of those games could have included southwestern Dane County. In the March 26th, 2009 addition of the Mount Horeb Mail it was revealed that if Chicago was selected as an official

Olympic site, Blue Mounds and Mount Horeb would see their names in the spotlight.

In 2009, a handful of cities across the world were pursuing bids to host the Summer Games, including Rio de Janeiro, Madrid, Tokyo and Chicago. If Chicago were to be chosen, a basic agreement was in place to bring two Olympic bicycling events, a road race and mountain biking, to Dane County.

The mountain biking event was to be held at Tyrol Basin. The road racing was to begin in downtown Madison, travel along town roads in Vermont and Blue Mounds and end at Blue Mounds State Park. The villages of Blue Mounds and Mount Horeb were to serve as gathering points for spectators and other visitors.

By the time the Mail article premiered John Landis of the Chicago 2016 Olympic Bid Team had already presented information to the Vermont town board and accepted a formal agreement on behalf of town chair Mark Sherven.

The Village of Mount Horeb contract called for local emergency services to be available from the village and other participating municipalities. In addition there was a requirement for interagency cooperation and coordination. Because the games are a Special Security Event, local planning would have included input from the Federal Government and the Secret Service. The City of Chicago and the State of Illinois had provided up to \$500 million to cover any financial shortfall associated with the event.

Additional concerns were raised by village officials, such as the closing of streets and area roads more than two days prior to the event, places for more than 10,000 people to congregate and the use of "official" vendors as opposed to allowing local groups to sell brats along the streets.

Early on, an official flag was sent by the Olympic Committee. Village Administrator Larry Bierke proudly flew it over the Mount Horeb Municipal Building.

Official word of where the Olympics were to be held would not be released until October 2nd of that year and training at Tyrol Basin could not begin until July 12 of 2016. Contestants were to be housed at University of Wisconsin dormitories.

Of course, the bad news was delivered in October 2009 that Chicago had lost the bid and Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, would have the honors of hosting the games.

The few physical reminders of that hopeful time in the world spotlight is the Olympic flag that proudly, if briefly, decorated Mt Horeb's Village Municipal Building and newspaper clippings—all just as proudly housed in MHAHS' collection.

Portraits Get Facelift

The portraits of Onun and Betsy (pictured at right with Curator Johnna Buysse) Dahle came home to MHAHS in May, looking healthier and more vibrant than ever following their sabbatical at *Baumgartner Fine Art Restoration and Antiques and Arts Gallery at Wales*.

The Capitol Questers organization of Madison, under the capable leadership of Ms. Barbara Pillinger, applied for and received a state grant to restore the two portraits. The total cost of the restoration work was \$1,700, with \$1,200 provided by the Questers, \$450 generously donated by Dahle descendant and MHAHS supporter Janet Beat, and the remaining \$50 covered by MHAHS general funds.

Onun and Betsy Dahle were early settlers in what is now Perry Township. They established a successful mercantile business in Daleyville, a town that bears their namesake. Prior to their donation to MHAHS, the oil paintings hung at local beloved landmark Little Norway for over 80 years where thousands of visitors appreciated them.



Mount Horeb Area Historical Society Members are Our Lifeblood HAVE YOU SENT YOUR 2016 DUES?

As the same time that we celebrate the successful Driftless Historium "Final Challenge" fundraising campaign and groundbreaking, we are also keenly aware that this big new building needs big continuing support.

We see the immediate results of your loyal support every day as excavation is completed, concrete is poured, and construction progresses. The new facility will let us store more, exhibit more, educate more and share more—better than ever before.

But more space and more activity also means more expenses.

The proceeds from the Final Challenge grant, as intended by our far-thinking lead donor, will provide vital supplemental support for daily utilities, staffing and other operations for the first

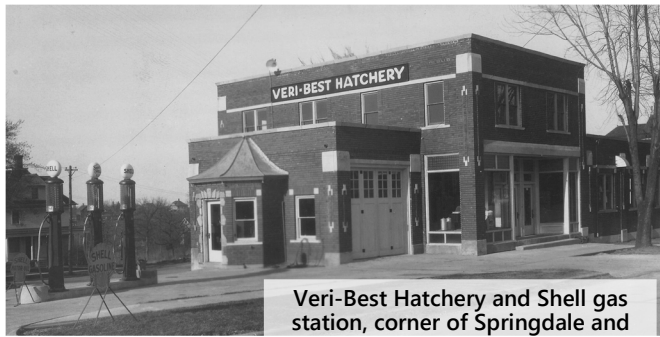
few years of its infancy, but we need a strong membership to embrace and nurture it to its full potential.

To that end, we hope that you consider joining the Society or renewing your membership before year's end. For your convenience, a membership form can be found below. Membership in the Mount Horeb Area Historical Society will entitle you to receiving the newsletter and other periodic updates as well as invitations to Society events.

Thank you for your time and consideration! We look forward to having you on our team.

2016 MHAHS ANNUAL MEETING

Join us on Sunday, October 9 at the Mount Horeb Senior Center, Upper Level. Business meeting and annual organization update by Society Treasurer and staff begins at 2 p.m., with a program to follow by Wisconsin Historical Society Architectural Historian Jim Draeger. Mr. Draeger will discuss the architectural and social history of the once-ubiquitous small town Wisconsin gas station, the subject of a book that he co-authored called "Fill 'er Up: The Glory Days of Wisconsin Gas Stations." A slideshow of historical photos documenting gas stations of the Mt Horeb area will also be presented. The public is welcome, with refreshments offered to all guests. MHAHS has a lot going on, and we'd love to tell you about it! Hope to see you there! [See flyer on page 2.]



Veri-Best Hatchery and Shell gas station, corner of Springdale and Main Streets, Mount Horeb, c. 1930s.



New Member Renewal

**Mount Horeb Area
Historical Society
& Museum**

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Phone _____ E-mail _____

Membership Levels (Membership year is January 01 to December 31)

\$20 Individual \$35 Household \$75 Contributing \$150 Sustaining \$500 Patron

(These levels are acknowledged annually in the newsletter.)

In the future, please send me full-color digital newsletters in lieu of paper copies, via my listed email.

Additional Donations To:

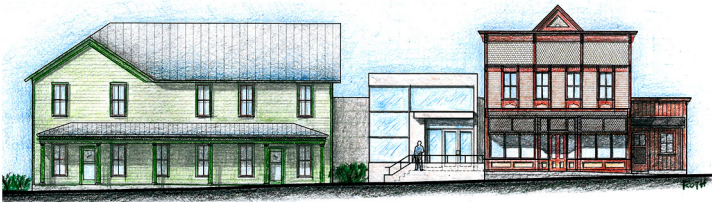
Museum/Society Operations \$ _____ Contingency Fund \$ _____ Exhibits Fund \$ _____

Mail to: Mt Horeb Area Historical Society, PO Box 238, Mt Horeb, WI 53572 All contributions are tax deductible.

ATTENTION MEMBERS:

If you are a dues-paying member, check your mailing label. "2016" in the lower right hand corner indicates your dues are current. If your corner is blank, your membership is due.

We appreciate your renewal and don't want you to miss a single issue of our newsletter or important information about MHAHS events.



Driftless Historium - OPENING JUNE 2017!

**Mount Horeb Area
Historical Society**

Board of Directors

Tony Zalucha-President
John Swartz-Vice Pres
Karla Ott-Secretary
William Thousand-Treasurer

Andy Burkart
Marlyn Grinde (*Honorary*)
Larry Kruckman
Shirley Martin
Doug Nesheim
Peter Riphahn
Lee Underwood

Operations

Destinee Udelhoven-Director
Johnna Buysse-Curator
Jane Burns-Newsletter Editor

Volunteer Curators

Brian Bigler
Marietta Gribb
Marlyn Grinde
Mary Hull
Nancy Thousand
Lee Underwood

**Driftless Historium
(UNDER CONSTRUCTION)
100 South Second Street
MHAHS Research Center
108 East Main Street
Mount Horeb, WI 53572
(608) 437-6486**

**A Word from MHAHS Capital
Campaign Chair, Karla Ott:**

**Meeting Challenges &
Exceeding Expectations**

For those who follow the Chinese Zodiac, 2016 is the Year of the Monkey - a year for great unexpected fortune. For the Mount Horeb Area Historical Society it has been the Year of the Final Challenge. When the terms of the challenge grant were presented in Dec 2015 ("Raise \$300,000 for operations between Jan 1 and May 15, 2016, and I will guarantee the funds to construct the Driftless Historium"), we were shocked, excited and... panicked. Such generosity. Such a huge gift. So little time.

Could our little community pull it off, this opportunity to construct the long-awaited museum AND have a operating cushion to ensure the financial stability of the first few years? We met weekly,

getting the word out, contacting donors and tracking donations.

The Challenge was met with optimism and enthusiasm. Financial contributions poured in and by the May 15 deadline you exceeded the donor's goal and our expectations with your unparalleled generosity.

We cried. We celebrated. And we finally broke ground. Because of you, 2016 has been a year of unexpected great fortune after all.

WE THANK YOU!



MHAHS Capital Campaign Committee, Staff and their children.